GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Rehabilitation of Mine Sites
Ray Dr. Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note/received reports from Jharkhand that holes are not filled by the Mining companies after mining work is over;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether the Government has any proposal/proposes to return the mining area land to their owners for its proper utilization; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

(a): The Central Government has not received any specific information in respect of Jharkhand that holes are not filled by the mining companies after mining work is over.

However, the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988 have provisions for restoration and rehabilitation of mining areas affected by mining activities, which is a continuous process. As per rule 23A of MCDR, 1988 every mine shall have a progressive mine closure plan and a final mine closure plan. The "progressive mine closure plan" means a progressive plan, for the purpose of providing protective, reclamation and rehabilitation measures in a mine. The "final mine closure plan" means a plan for the purpose of decommissioning, reclamation and rehabilitation in the mine or part thereof after cessation of mining and mineral processing operations.
As per rule 23 (5) of MCDR, 1988, the leaseholder shall not abandon a mine unless a final mine closure plan is implemented. For this purpose, the lessee shall be required to obtain a certificate from the Regional Controller of Mines of Indian Bureau of Mines (an attached office of the Ministry of Mines) or the officer authorized by the State Government in this behalf to the effect that protective, reclamation and rehabilitation work in accordance with the final mine closure plan have been carried out before abandonment of mine. Further, as per rule 23F (5) of MCDR, 1988, if the reclamation and rehabilitation measures as envisaged in the approved mine closure plan, in respect of which a financial assurance is given, have not been carried out in accordance with the mine closure plan, the financial assurance can be forfeited.
(b): Does not arise in view of the reply given to (a) above.

(c) & (d): in respect of land which belongs to a private owner, the consent of the owner for starting mining operations is required to be obtained before entry into the area.

After completion of mining operations and after the protective, reclamation and rehabilitation work has been carried out in accordance with the final mine closure plan, the land is surrendered to the owner.

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